AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended): A method for measuring an amount of an optically detectable compound to be measured in a sample, which comprises[[;]]:

preventing an electric charge in an atmosphere in a photometry chamber from transferring to the surface of a solution which generates light due to an energy variation of a substance induced by the optically detectable compound in the sample,

measuring value of the light, and

determining an amount of the optically detectable compound in the sample on the basis of the measured value thus obtained,

wherein the preventing step includes at least one step selected from

(i) making an atmosphere surrounding a reaction vessel and/or an atmosphere surrounding the reaction vessel in the photometry chamber electrically constant by using one or more of the following selected from the group consisting of:

(1) gas having a constant electric charge,

(2) a neutralization apparatus, or

(3) a material having a static electricity elimination effect, or

(ii) blocking a contact of the atmosphere in the photometry chamber with the solution in the reaction vessel including

(1) shutting an opening part of the reaction vessel holding the solution with a sheet, or

(2) covering the surface of the solution in the reaction vessel with a substance insoluble in the solution.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim [[2]] 1, wherein the step of making the atmosphere surrounding the reaction vessel and/or the atmosphere surrounding the reaction vessel in the photometry chamber electrically constant includes attaching a material having a static electricity elimination effect on to [[a]] an inside wall surface of the photometry chamber.

5. (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim [[2]] 1, wherein the step of making the atmosphere surrounding the reaction vessel and/or the atmosphere surrounding the reaction vessel in the photometry chamber electrically constant includes treating the atmosphere surrounding the reaction vessel at a stage before the reaction vessel is moved to the photometry chamber, by using one or more of the following selected from the group consisting of[[;]]:

(1) gas having a constant electric charge,

(2) [[an]] a neutralization apparatus, or

(3) a material having a static electricity elimination effect.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the light generated due to the energy variation of the substance is luminescence, fluorescence, or phosphorescence, which is induced by the presence of the optically detectable compound in the sample.

8. (Withdrawn): An instrument for measuring value of light generated due to an energy variation of a substance in a solution instrument, which contains a mechanism for measuring value of light generated due to an energy variation of a substance in a solution and a mechanism for preventing an electric charge in an atmosphere in a photometry chamber from transferring to the surface of the solution.

9. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented): The instrument according to Claim 8, wherein the mechanism for preventing the electric charge in the atmosphere in the photometry chamber from transferring to the surface of the solution is at least one mechanism selected from

(i) a mechanism for making an atmosphere surrounding a reaction vessel and /or an atmosphere surrounding the reaction vessel in the photometry chamber electrically constant, or

(ii) a mechanism for blocking a contact of the atmosphere in the photometry chamber with the solution in the reaction vessel.

10. (Withdrawn): The instrument according to Claim 9, wherein the mechanism for making the atmosphere surrounding the reaction vessel and /or the atmosphere surrounding the reaction vessel in the photometry chamber electrically constant is one or more of mechanism selected from the group consisting of;

(1) an apparatus for flowing gas having a constant electric charge to surrounding the reaction vessel and /or into the photometry chamber,

(2) an neutralization apparatus, or

(3) a photometry chamber on which a material having a static electricity elimination effect is attached.

11. (Withdrawn): The instrument according to Claim 9, wherein the mechanism for blocking a contact of the atmosphere in the photometry chamber with the solution in the reaction vessel is a mechanism for shutting an opening part of the reaction vessel holding the solution with a sheet.

12. (Withdrawn): The instrument according to Claim 9, wherein the mechanism for blocking a contact of the atmosphere in the photometry chamber with the solution in the reaction vessel is a mechanism for covering the surface of the solution with a substance insoluble in the solution.

13. (Withdrawn): The instrument according to Claim 8, wherein the light generated due to the variation of the energy of the substance is luminescence, fluorescence, or phosphorescence, which is generated corresponding to a presence of an objective component to be measured in a sample.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Withdrawn): An instrument for measuring value of light generated due to an energy variation of a substance, which contains

a mechanism for measuring value of light generated due to an energy variation of a substance and

a mechanism for treating for making an atmosphere surrounding a reaction vessel and /or a reaction vessel of a photometry chamber electrically constant.

16. (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim [[2]] 1, wherein the step of making the atmosphere surrounding the reaction vessel and/or the atmosphere surrounding the reaction vessel in the photometry chamber constant includes treating the atmosphere surrounding the reaction vessel and/or the atmosphere surrounding the reaction vessel in the photometry chamber by using two or more of the following selected from the group consisting of[[;]]:

(1) gas having a constant electric charge,

(2) a neutralization apparatus, or

(3) a material having a static electricity elimination effect.

17. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim [[6]] 1, wherein the step of covering the surface of the solution in the reaction vessel with a substance insoluble to the solution is any one of steps (i) or (ii) below:

(i) covering the surface of the solution with liquid which is insoluble in the solution in the reaction vessel, and the liquid has a property of spreading over the surface of the solution in the vessel, or

(ii) applying a substance which has lower specific gravity than the solution in the reaction vessel and is insoluble in the solution and has a property of floating on the surface of the solution.

18. (Withdrawn): The instrument according to Claim 9, wherein the mechanism for making the atmosphere surrounding the reaction vessel and /or the atmosphere surrounding the reaction vessel in the photometry chamber electrically constant is two or more mechanisms selected from the group consisting of;

(1) an apparatus for flowing gas having a constant electric charge to surrounding the reaction vessel and /or into the photometry chamber,

(2) a neutralization apparatus, or

(3) a photometry chamber on which a material having a static electricity elimination effect is attached.

19. (Withdrawn): The instrument according to claim 12, wherein the mechanism for covering the surface of the solution in the reaction vessel with a substance insoluble to the solution is any one of the mechanism (i) or (ii) mentioned below:

(i) a mechanism for covering the surface of the solution with liquid which is insoluble in the solution and spreads over surface of the solution, or

(ii) a mechanism for applying a substance which has lower specific gravity than the solution in the reaction vessel, insoluble in the solution and has a property of floating on the surface of the solution.

20. (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the optically detectable compound is derived from an objective compound, and the amount of the objective compound is able to be determined by using a calibration curve showing a relationship between a concentration of the objective compound and a measured value which is previously obtained by measuring a standard solution containing a known amount of the objective component.